

Change in leadership at Artpark: President Sonia Kozlova Clark departing

Artpark & Company Press Release

After eight years leading the organization, Sonia Kozlova Clark is no longer with Artpark & Company, effective March 29.

Her leadership and commitment have been instrumental in advancing Artpark & Company. Clark led numerous successful initiatives, including developing a new strategic plan, expanding visual and performing arts and children's programming, and hosting international artists in residencies to develop new works at Artpark.

Joanne Bauer, chair of the Artpark & Company board of directors, said, "We thank Sonia for advancing the mission of Artpark and wish her much success."

The organization's board of directors will initiate a national search for a new president.

Dave Wedekindt, Artpark & Company's current vice president, will serve as interim president.

He joined the Artpark & Company team in 2018 and has extensive experience in performing arts marketing, sales, communications, programming, spon-



Artpark & Company file photo by K&D Action Photo and Aerial Imaging

sorship and development. Previously, he was the director of marketing for the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts (UB-CFA) for 15 years, preceded by five years as associate director of marketing. Wedekindt started his career as associate director of development for Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo. A strong advocate for the arts, he also serves on the board of direc-

tors of MusicalFare Theatre and is immediate past president of the board of directors for Arts Services Inc. Wedekindt holds a Master of Business Administration from the University at Buffalo and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from SUNY Fredonia.

Artpark & Company will celebrate its 50th anniversary this summer, and has a full schedule

of events planned to mark this milestone. More information is available at www.artpark.net.

Established in 1974 as a collaboration between New York State Parks and the nonprofit Artpark & Company, Artpark welcomes artists to enjoy and be inspired by the dramatic scenery and rich history of the Niagara River Gorge, and welcomes visitors and locals to enjoy the art and ex-

periences created on its 150 acres. Over the decades, Artpark has hosted tens of thousands of avant-garde visual artists, cutting-edge performers, beloved bands and musicians, poets and writers, and more, earning a worldwide reputation as a special place to make and experience art. This living cultural legacy weaves into the area's history and present-day significance to Western New York's

Indigenous population, the more recent history of investment in sustainable hydroelectric power that both shaped and funded the site, and the Niagara River and Gorge's extraordinary natural beauty.

With the unprecedented New York state investment focused on the Niagara Region, coupled with Artpark's location, legacy and programming, plans are in place to envision the park and its grounds with the guidance of the "Artpark 2030" Strategic Plan.

Created in collaboration with an international team of architects: SO-IL, West8, Charcoalblue and Gekh Studio, Artpark & Company is poised to be a leading regional and national destination where art, nature, technology and culture uniquely intersect to create unforgettable experiences for all visitors. The strategic plan represents a bold vision and move forward for the 50-year-old organization, designed to grow its impact and reach new markets and audiences locally and beyond.

More information on the planning will be shared with the public later this year.

Blues Traveler + Big Head Todd and the Monsters added to Artpark lineup

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As part of Artpark & Company's 50th anniversary season, Blues Traveler and Big Head Todd and the Monsters will perform in the Artpark Amphitheater at 7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 16.

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, April 5, and cost \$49 for reserved seats, \$39 for front of stage (standing only), and \$20 for general admission (carry-in

chairs and blankets permitted). Purchase online at ticketmaster.com or over the phone by calling the box office at 716-754-4375.

The lower Artpark box office, located off South Fourth Street, is currently closed for in-person purchases due to construction on the grounds. Tickets are also only available online or by phone.

This concert is presented by Artpark & Company. Visit artpark.net for more information.

More on Blues Traveler

In 1987, the four original members of Blues Traveler - John Popper, Chandler Kinchla, Brendan Hill, and the late Bobby Sheehan - gathered in their drummer's parent's basement in Princeton, New Jersey to jam. From these high school sessions emerged a band that would go on to release 14 studio albums (and counting), four of which have gone Gold, three Platinum, and one six-times-Platinum - selling more than 10 million combined units worldwide.

Over an illustrious career,



Blues Traveler photo by Graham Fielder // provided by Artpark & Company

Blues Traveler has played over 2,000 live shows in front of more than 30 million people, and, in "Run-Around," had the longest-charting radio single in Billboard history. The song earned Blues Traveler a Grammy Award for Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals.

The band's movie credits in-

clude "Blues Brothers 2000," "Kingpin" and "Wildflowers." A television favorite, Blues Traveler has been featured on "Saturday Night Live," "Austin City Limits," VH1's "Behind the Music," and they have the record for the most appearances of any artist on "The Late Show with David Letterman."

Their album, "Traveler's Blues," released in 2021, was nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Traditional Blues Album, bringing a 35-year-plus journey full circle. The group's most recent recording is "Traveler's Soul," released in 2023.

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